

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: JULY 19, 2021

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Robert B. Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Paul Wyman offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECONGITIONS:

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS:

Commissioners congratulated the following county employees, and Commissioner Dodd read their Employee Service Awards into the record:

Employee	Years of Service
Stacy Claxton	5
Dave Duncan	10
Jessica Secrease	10
Jeffrey Elftman	10
Robert Sebura	15
Jami Thompson	15
Katherine Noel	15
Scott McClelland	15
Josh Woodall	20
Stewart Lauterbach	20
Dawn Greer-Griggs	20
Connie Cook	25
Mark Dabrowski	30
Connie Burton	30
Jeffrey Lipinski	30

JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD:

Commissioners congratulated Howard County jail employee Aaron Prescott for his outstanding service. Mr. Prescott is hard working, helpful, and very knowledgeable, goes above and beyond, and sincerely cares about the jail. Mr. Prescott is able to perform all tasks given to him. Mr. Prescott is also a morale booster to the department. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to him. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of July 6, 2021, regular meeting minutes, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Employees Flu Vaccine:

Howard County Immunization Coordinator Kelly Carpenter, RN, submitted the cost for 300 flu vaccine doses for the Howard County employees in the amount of \$5,250.00. The cost for the 300 flu vaccine in the amount of \$5,250.00 was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on July 2, 2021, in the amount of \$899,811.53 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on July 16, 2021, in the amount of \$881,979.30 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Bonus for payment on July 16, 2021, in the amount of \$325,091.39 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
4. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid July 19, 2021, in the amount of \$2,505,118.98 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
5. **Ratify Claims:** Commissioner Wyman presented a claim for a mediation fee to be paid to Church Church Hittle + Antrim in the amount of \$500.00 for ratification. Commissioner Wyman also presented a claim for conference expenses for the Probation Department to be paid to Hampton Inn By Hilton in the amount of \$2,360.00 for ratification. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to ratify the claim for Church Church Hittle & Antrim in the amount of \$500.00 and the claim for Hampton Inn By Hilton in the amount of \$2,360.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and motion carried.
6. **Monthly Reports:** Reports were submitted for review and accepted by the Board: Weights & Measures Monthly Report for June 16 - July 16, 2021, County Treasurer's Monthly Report for May 2021, and Monthly Report – Clerk of the Circuit Court for June 30, 2021.

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

County Attorney Alan Wilson submitted a proposed Ordinance No. 2021-BCCO-29, An Ordinance of the Howard County Board of Commissioners Designation Howard County as a Broadband Ready Community. The Ordinance states that Howard County is broadband ready, and is complying with the statutes that are in place. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to approve Ordinance No. 2021-BCCO-29, An Ordinance of the Howard County Board of Commissioners Designation Howard County as a Broadband Ready Community. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

County Attorney Alan Wilson submitted an agreement and a claim to be ratified in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Gage Holder for working in Howard County's summer internship program. A motion was made by Commissioner Bray to approve the agreement and ratification of the claim for Gage Holder in the amount of \$1,500.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

County Attorney Alan Wilson submitted an agreement to purchase Galveston's Volunteer Fire Department's water tanker for the amount of \$1.00. Commissioner Bray stated that this purchase is for the EMA Department. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to purchase the Galveston's Volunteer Fire Department's water tanker in the amount of \$1.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

President of the Howard County Board of Commissioners, Paul Wyman, submitted the Contract Services Agreement for CASA with Courtney Howell. The Contract Services Agreement for CASA was signed as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Semon asked that if Emerald Green starts their process on Tuesday before the Ordinance is complete, will they be bound by the ordinance? Howard County Board of Commissioners President, Paul Wyman, stated that once they get their special exception, that is when the work begins, and they will be bound by the ordinance due to the agreements. Mr. Semon asked if the County could put a hold on the ordinance and to have a moratorium put in place until a final ordinance is ready for approval. Mr. Wyman stated that once the company gets the special exception saying that it can do power generation, then the County will need to figure out if the project is right for the community. The County will need to come together and make sure that it is not about not doing it, but how can everyone do this where it is right for everyone in the community. Mr. Semon stated that he feels that these agreements will not have any weight legally and asked who would be responsible for repairs if his well gets contaminated.

Resident Merrill Swisher of 11877 E. 100 S., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Swisher asked if a vote would be held on the ordinance that was presented last week to review. Howard County Board of Commissioners President, Paul Wyman, stated there would not be a vote because what was presented was a draft of the ordinance, and that there was a ten-day public comment period, which ended on July 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The Commissioners are in the process of reading those comments. Mr. Swisher noted that the current ordinance states that the set back is 150 feet from his home, but if a screen is put in front of his home, that measurement can be cut in half. Mr. Swisher asked the Commissioners to not vote in favor of something like this. Commissioner Dodd stated that he and the Board really appreciate all the public comments that were received. He explained that this is just the first step, and the Commissioners will need time to debate and discuss the public comments.

Resident Clee Oliver of 5768 W. 00 NS., Kokomo, IN 46901: Mr. Oliver stated that he feels that the ordinance draft presented in the previous meeting has been written verbatim from a similar ordinance in Minnesota. He stated that he really felt that this was a disservice to the County and to the community. He noted that there is even a section in the draft of the Howard County Ordinance that has a street address from the Minnesota ordinance. Mr. Olive stated that he feels that there has not been to much foresight in writing the draft of the ordinance for Howard County.

Resident Jerry Paul President of the Howard County Veterans Memorial Corp.: Mr. Paul presented an update on the Woman's Legacy Memorial being built at the Howard County Courthouse. The rod iron fence is being installed July 19, 2021, and the landscapers will begin their work July 20, 2021. The sculptor for this project, Benjamin Victor, notified Mr. Paul to inform him that everything is on time for the delivery of the statues. Mr. Paul also stated that retired Lieutenant Colonel Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell, who is the middle statue of the Women's Legacy Memorial and the first African American female fighter pilot, will be there in person for the dedication of the memorial on August 6, 2021. Mr. Paul gave an update on the Pop tabs, stating approximately three million were collected for this year to deliver to the Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Paul also stated that the Championship Park of Kokomo will be getting new signs put up on the bypass, and he is requesting that the Veteran's Memorial Park gets the same signage on the bypass as Championship Park of Kokomo.

Resident Stan Oyler of 1877 N. 1100 E., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Oyler asked Commissioner Dodd if the Commissioners were only taking the public comments that were e-mailed recently, or if they were also considering comments made over the course of the past 18 months. Commissioner Dodd addressed that, for him personally, he has taken any comments made, recent or not, into consideration. Mr. Oyler asked if these agreements will be public record. Howard County Board of Commissioners President, Paul Wyman, stated that all this will be public record for review, and that the entire process will be made public. Mr. Oyler asked County Attorney Allan Wilson if there will be charge per megawatts when applying for permits. Mr. Wyman stated that yes, a fee must be paid when permits are filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Oyler stated that he follows a solar page based out of Pulaski County. He alleged that Pulaski County originally was going to pay 1.2 million dollars for their solar energy, but the fee was able

to be negotiated down to fifteen thousand dollars thru an agreement. Mr. Oyler stated that it would be best to get any tax dollars up front from solar companies and also alleged that solar companies are lobbying in Michigan with the goal of preventing renewable energy from being taxed. He explained that it would be a disservice to the community if there were six to eight thousand acres of land dedicated to solar energy but no tax dollars being collected. Mr. Oyler stated that he was told if Howard County doesn't start using solar energy, Chrysler [Stellantis] will leave the community. He went on to say that he feels like this statement is not true. Mr. Oyler recommended with speaking to businesses, such as Stellantis, before moving forward with using solar energy.

Resident Joe Northcutt of 1187 N. 1100 E., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Northcutt stated that ING still had information in the newspaper that is incorrect and there needed to be a correction to say Union Township. Planning Commissioner Executive Director, Greg Sheline, stated that this has been advertised with the correct information.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners
at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on a motion
made by Commissioner Bray, seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioner Meeting, July 19, 2021